

# OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR  
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

ROYA STANLEY, DIRECTOR

State Energy Council  
Friday, December 18, 2007  
Meeting Minutes  
Hughes Conference Room - Capitol Building  
Des Moines, Iowa

Attendees: Roya Stanley, Deborah Svec-Carstens, Bob Mulqueen, Brian Crowe, Jennifer Wright, Bill Brand, Sharon Tahtinen, Jeff Geerts, Mollie Anderson, Lee Wilkinson, John Norris, Stuart Crine, Mike Coveyou, Tom Shepherd

The Committee discussed the following in the 2 hour meeting:

**Iowa Energy Independence Plan:** was submitted on December 14, 2007 to the Governor and Legislature. The Plan is more of a framework, it will contain more detail in the future, but there was not enough time this year. Next plan is due in December of 2008; that plan will have more data. The Office of Energy Independence (OEI) will start working on the plan in February. The Plan and Data Addendum are currently on the website; OEI will be looking to the State Energy Council (SEC) for input moving forward.

There was some concern about the promotion of telecommuting in the Plan. There was concern about the state's technical security. OEI intended that telecommuting be considered by all state employees when planning meetings and conferences.

**December SEC Report:** DPS expressed interest in developing a plan to organize a subgroup out of the SEC to determine key legislative liaisons to discuss legislation in more detail. OEI suggested bringing in several legislators interested in energy policy to discuss the SEC role. The question was asked if SEC Reports are subject to Open Records law. It was the Governor's Office was under the opinion that they are.

DAS expressed the need to have more cross reference between the plans that are being written and what has already been completed. Monthly report format should reference what has been accomplished already.

**Green Team Initiative:** is being developed by the Governor's Office. There is a lot of overlap between the SEC and Green Team; there are a lot of areas that the groups should work together. DED purposed that our internal practices in government should be "greened" as well as our external practices, i.e. in contracts.

**Heating Situation:** the DHR communicated the issues in affordability and trends that have shown over the last several years that utility bills are getting increasingly difficult to pay. 220,000 households in Iowa are behind in their utility bills. In November 30,000 households in Iowa were disconnected from power- this does not include REC's and municipalities, only Investor Owned Utilities. Propane fuel has been a major issue. Minimum delivery cost lowers the ability of low-income residents to fill their tanks as needed. Concern this early in the season is frightening. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program has been cut at the federal level- other states have provided a supplemental, but Iowa has not. Iowa has looked at several models but have not been funded.

**Building Codes & New state office building:** the State builds a new building every 30 years. The State should look at the long term payback, not just the upfront costs. DOE has some programs that could be of some assistance.

State buildings are all undergoing a MidAmerican energy efficiency reviews. The report should tell DAS which state buildings need the most work.

Previously there are no code inspections for buildings subject to the state building code. Cities are mostly hands off when it comes to enforcing energy code. The existing Bureau of Building Inspections will now inspect original sections of buildings that are subject to the state building code (original structures).

OEI suggested a building task force on the SEC to work out some of the building code issues.

**NEXT MEETINGS:**

01/09/08, 9am to 10am, Kennedy Conference Room

01/25/08, 9am to 10am, Kennedy Conference Room

02/08/08, 9am to 10am, Kennedy Conference Room

02/22/08, 9am to 10am, Kennedy Conference Room